

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 IO-14 NSC-10 L-03 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

DOTE-00 DRC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /106 W

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R 071830Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6686

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 3436

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETERN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TRANSFER OF AIRLINES TO CDG AIRPORT

REF: PARIS 2611

SUMMARY: GOF'S FEB. 4 MEETING WITH CARRIERS DIAAPPOINTING RE LIKELY PROSPECTS FOR MUCH IMPROVED CONNECTING SERVICES AT NEW ROISSY AIRPORT. FURTHER EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO CARRIERS SOON. PANAM AN AIR CANADA REFUSE FIX MOVING DATE IN MEANTIME. TWA HAS BEEN TOLD WILL HAVE TO OPERATE ITS CHARTERS FROM BOURGET. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN VIEW OUR BELIEF SITUATION WARRANTS DEMARCHE TO HIGH LEVEL IN SGAC IF OUTCOME IS TO BE FAVORABLE INFLUENCED AT THIS LATE STAGE. POMPIDOU INAUGURATES CDG ON MARCH 8.

1. PANAM AND TWA HAVE GIVEN US RUNDOWN ON FEB. 4 MEETING OF CARRIERS WITH BLOCH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY, RE CONNECTING SERVICES PLANNED FOR NEW CHARLES DE GAULLE (CDG) AIRPORT AT ROISSY. SGAC REP ALSO ATTENDED BUT TOOK NO PART IN DISCUSSION.

2. BOTH PANAM AND TWA WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT NEITHER

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AIR FRANCE NOR AIR INTER SHOWED ANY INCLINATION AT

MEETING TO MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT IMPROVE CONNECTING SERVICES FROM CDG TO FRENCH PROVINCES. BLOCH UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE QUESTION AT HIGHER LEVEL WITH AIR FRANCE AND AIR INTER AND TO REPORT BACK TO INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS IN ANOTHER TEN DAYS. ACCORDING PANAM, BLOCH WAS VISIBLY ANNOYED WHEN, AFTER HE HAD EXTOLLED COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES TO CDG-BASED CARRIERS OF EAST EUROPEAN CONNECTIONS AIR FRANCE WILL OPERATE FROM CDG, AIR FRANCE REP REVEALED THAT AIR FRANCE PLANS TO MOVE ITS EAST EUROPEAN SERVICE BACK TO ORLY ON NOV. 1 WHEN ITS NORTH ATLANTIC SERVICE IS MOVED ON THAT DATE FROM ORLY TO CDG.

3. AT MEETING TWA REPS EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR PANAM POSITION AND SAID SHARED CONCERN OVER INADEQUATE CONNECTING SERVICES, ESPECIALLY TO FRENCH PROVINCES. PANAM REP RAUSCHENPLAT TELLS US THAT TWA, WHICH HITHERTO HAD BEEN FAIRLY RELAXED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF CDG OPERATIONS, HAS SINCE SHOWN MORE ACTIVE CONCERN WITH PROBLEM. (TWA'S DIRECTOR OF PASSENGER SERVICES INFORMED US HE REMAINS CONCERNED POOR CONNECTIONS OFFERED AT CDG REFLECT NOTHING MORE THAN EFFORT REINFORCE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR AIR FRANCE FOR ITS OPERATIONS FROM ORLY.)

4. AIR FRANCE REPS INDICATED ANTILLES SERVES WOULD BE MOVED TO CDG ON MARCH 13 AS WELL AS SOME CONNECTING FLIGHTS TO BORDEAUX AND TOULOUSE, WHILE REST OF ITS DOMESTIC FLIGHTS PROGRAMMED FOR CDG PLUS EAST EUROPEAN SERVICE WOULD BE MOVED ON MARCH 20. AIR INTER WOULD MOVE ITS AGREED FLIGHTS (ABOUT 6 PERCENT ITS TOTAL OPERATIONS) ON APRIL 1. UTA, AIR AFRIQUE, BEA, AND JAL WILL MOVE APRIL 1. BRITISH CALEDONIAN WILL MOVE APRIL 20. TWA AGREED MOVE MARCH 13. AIR CANADA JOINED PANAM IN REFUSING GIVE COMMITMENT PENDING RESOLUTION OF QUESTION OF CONNECTING SERVICES.

5. A NEW COMPLICATING FACTOR, OF WHICH TWA'S COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR INFORMED OTHER CARRIERS AT SEPARATE MEETING, IS THAT TWA HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FOLLOWING MOVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CDG ITS CHARTER FLIGHTS WILL HAVE TO OPERATE FROM LE BOURGET. THIS DECISION, MADE IN RESPONSE QUERY FROM TWA AND AFTER REFERRING QUESTION TO HIGHER AUTHORITY, WAS CONVEYED BY MME. CALLEDE OF SGAC. KSHE WAS MEMBER FRENCH DEL AT RECENT US-FRENCH TALKS.) SHE SEEMED WELL AWARE DECISION WAS NOT LIKELY TO GO DOWN WELL WITH TWA, FOR SHE INDICATED CARRIER WAS FREE TO FILE OBJECTIONS WITH SGAC.

PANAM WAS REASSURED AS OF TWO WEEKS
AGO ITS CHARTERS COULD OPERATE FROM CDG.

6. RAUSCHENPLAT WAS IN CONTACT EARLIER IN WEEK
WITH PANAM PRESIDENT SEWALL WHO FELT MOVE TO CDG UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD MEAN SERIOUS LOSS
OF REVENUE TO PANAM. SEWALL FAILED UNDERSTAND WHY
SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE WAS ATTACHED BY GOF TO OPENING
CDG OPERATIONALLY ON MARCH 13 RATHER THAN WAITING
FEW MORE MONTHS TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS ENSURING
VIABLE AIRPORT OPERATIONS. (RAUSCHENPLAT HAS SUPPLIED
US IN CONFIDENCE IN-HOUSE DATA INDICATING THAT ABOUT
ONE THIRD OF PAN AM SALES IN FRANCE COME FROM PRO-
VINCIAL MARKET -- PLUS NICE -- AND THAT MARKET HAS
BEEN FAST GROWING, I.E., FROM \$5 MILLION IN SALES
IN 1970 TO \$7.5 MILLION IN 1973. THESE FIGURES
INCLUDE CHARTERS, HOWEVER.)

7. INVITATIONS HAVE JUST BEEN RECEIVED FOR FORMAL
INAUGURATION OF CDG AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT POMPIDOU
ON MARCH 8.

8. COMMENT: AFTER FEB.4 MEETING WE ARE NOT
SANGUINE THAT OUR CARRIERS STAND TO GAIN MUCH ADDITION-
AL SATISFACTION IF SITUATION NOW LEFT TO DRIFT.
PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY HAS ONLY LIMITED COMPETENCE
TO RESOLVE SCHEDULING PROBLEM, AND SGAC IF UNAP-
PROACHED IS LIKELY TO CONCLUDE THAT FEB. 4 MEETING
WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF FOLLOW-UP TO MATTER
WE RAISED FORMALLY IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.

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ACTION EB-11

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----- 094421

R 071830Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6687

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EMBASSY THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT APPROACH TO GRIMAUD, HEAD OF SGAC, (AND INFORMING FOREIGN MINISTRY) WOULD BE WARRANTED, EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN AT LITTLE PROGRESS MADE AT FEB. 4 MEETING, RESTATING IF NEED BE IN STRONGER TERMS THAN HERETOFORE OUR VIEW OF THE PROBLEM AND THE GOF'S OBLIGATIONS, AND URGING THAT GRIMAUD INFLUENCE EARLY AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION IN INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF US-FRENCH CIVIL AIR GOOD RELATIONS BUT OF VIABILITY OF CDG AIRPORT FROM OUTSET. GRIMAUD INTERCESSION COULD ASSIST BLOCH'S EFFORTS WITH FRENCH CARRIERS. MOREOVER, WE ASSUME GOF WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO AVOID UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM UNHAPPINESS OF INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS THAT WOULD TARNISH OPENING OF CDG, BUT BY SAME TOKEN IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO SEE THIS MATTER HAPPILY RESOLVED TO AVOID FOR OUR CARRIERS BAD PUBLICITY AND POSSIBLE DETERIORATION IN CLIMATE OF THEIR DAY-TO-DAY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOF.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY GUIDANCE, AND SUGGESTS THAT DEPT. CONCERT WITH PANAM AND TWA HOME OFFICES TO ENSURE THAT THEY FULLY ENDORSE ANY FURTHER APPROACH TO GOF BY EMBASSY.
IRWIN

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